



NOTICE TO STATE WATER PROJECT CONTRACTORS

NUMBER: 00-04

DATE: MAR 03 2000

SUBJECT: San Luis Reservoir
Storage Estimate

FROM: Signed: Ray Hart
Deputy Director, Department of Water Resources

The ability of the Department of Water Resources to export water south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta on a schedule that best suits State Water Project needs has been severely restricted over the past few years. As a result, reservoir storage south of the Delta plays a vital role in meeting water delivery requests. In an attempt to allow the Department to more accurately evaluate and project SWP operations including the "low-point" for San Luis Reservoir storage, use of San Luis to make the initial allocations on December 1 of each year, and status of carryover water in San Luis, the Department developed the enclosed water scheduling-water operations procedure. An added benefit of the procedure would be the potential for minimizing SWP power costs by more accurately predicting power requirements and potential sales.

Development of the enclosure was coordinated with and supported by members of the State Water Contractors' Water Budget Subcommittee. It will be implemented in 2000 and will basically consist of periodic Department requests for contractors to submit updated "best estimate" water delivery schedules for the remaining months of the year. To be effective, full contractor participation is encouraged. It is emphasized that contractors' approved annual allocations will not be decreased if the "best estimate" schedules together with prior deliveries for the year total less than the annual allocation.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Flory, Acting Chief of the Department's State Water Project Analysis Office at (916) 653-4313.

Enclosure

San Luis Reservoir Storage Estimate

PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to describe a water scheduling - water operations method that the Department will implement for calendar year 2000. We expect the method will allow the Department to more accurately plan SWP operations, including the projection of the (1) "low point" for San Luis Reservoir storage, (2) initial allocations on December 1, and (3) status of carryover water.

PROCEDURES

The data used by the Department's Operations Control Office to project San Luis Reservoir storage are based on a variety of factors that develop as each year progresses. These factors include annual rainfall and snow pack hydrology, initial and continuing SWP conservation reservoir storage levels, operational and environmental constraints, contractor monthly delivery requests, and deliveries.

Projecting contractor water delivery schedules is one of the most variable factors in the Department's studies. For example, as the year progresses, the approved monthly water delivery schedule amounts (which were provided by contractors prior to October 1 of the previous year) are adjusted to reflect the approved annual amounts. SWPAO's current procedure is to proportionally increase the remaining months schedules so that the actual and scheduled deliveries total the full annual allocation. This method reflects the Department's commitment to deliver full approved allocations. Adjusting the water delivery schedules in this manner to reflect delivery of the contractors' full allocation can result in the monthly San Luis storage estimate being low by a significant amount.

In order to more accurately estimate monthly San Luis storage levels, SWPAO will request that contractors submit by April 15 and September 15 of each year updated "best estimate" schedules for the remaining months (April - December and September-

December) of the year. Additional requests for updated "best estimate" schedules may be requested by SWPAO throughout the year. Voluntary updated schedules from contractors are also encouraged as their water needs change. Until contractors revise their schedules, the best information SWPAO has is the water delivery schedule requests that were submitted by the contractors prior to October 1 of the previous year. **It should be stressed that contractors' annual allocations will not be decreased because of this procedure even if the April 15 and September 15 schedules, and subsequent schedules, together with deliveries in prior months total less than their annual allocation.** Furthermore, in approving subsequent revised delivery requests in accordance with Article 12 of the long-term Water Supply Contracts, the Department will accommodate such requests to the same degree as it otherwise would in the absence of "best estimate" delivery schedules.

To better project SWP operations and San Luis storage, SWPAO will, commencing in 2000, provide water delivery data to OCO for two studies with water delivery schedules based on timely, revised schedules received from contractors. Study No. 1 will be performed in the traditional way while noting acceptable peaking amounts. Under Study No. 2, as water is delivered, the monthly scheduled amounts will be replaced by the actual deliveries and future months will be based on the latest "best estimate" schedule submitted. Any water scheduled but not delivered will not be redistributed by the Department in the remaining months. Alternately, if a monthly actual delivery to a contractor is greater than the scheduled delivery and the contractor's actual plus scheduled deliveries exceed its allocation, the contractor's schedule will be decreased proportionally in October, November, and December. This will preserve the contractor's realistic schedule in the summer months when the San Luis low point occurs. The contractor's water delivery schedule may not total the contractor's allocation, but it should be noted that the contractor's allocation is unchanged. **Again, the contractors are still entitled to take delivery of their full allocations, if needed. A reduction in allocation will only occur through a formal letter to the Department requesting a reduction or through the water allocation process.**

OFF-AQUEDUCT POWER AND SYSTEM ENERGY ALLOCATIONS

The April 15 water delivery schedules will also be used to determine the Off-Aqueduct Power Facilities allocation the Department is required to make in May of each year. After the May OAP allocations, the contractors' deliveries will not be revised for the purpose of determining OAP charges until after the end of the year. Any system energy (variable OMP&R) updates will be based on the April 15 schedule and subsequent schedules.